

Developing Evaluator Competencies in the “Real World”: A Student’s Perspective



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STUDENT

project & clients: examples

- **Student engagement metrics**, Office of Public Engagement, University of Minnesota
- **Foster care system review**, Human Services and Public Health Department, Hennepin County
- **Child abuse forensic interviewing**, CornerHouse
- **Support for families when a parent has cancer**, Angel Foundation
- **Safe pesticide application and use**, University of Maryland and University of Minnesota Extension

challenges

time management



lessons learned



- Depersonalize
- Work efficiently
- Think creatively
- Use 'The Program Evaluation Standards' to think through decisions and trade-offs

MENTOR

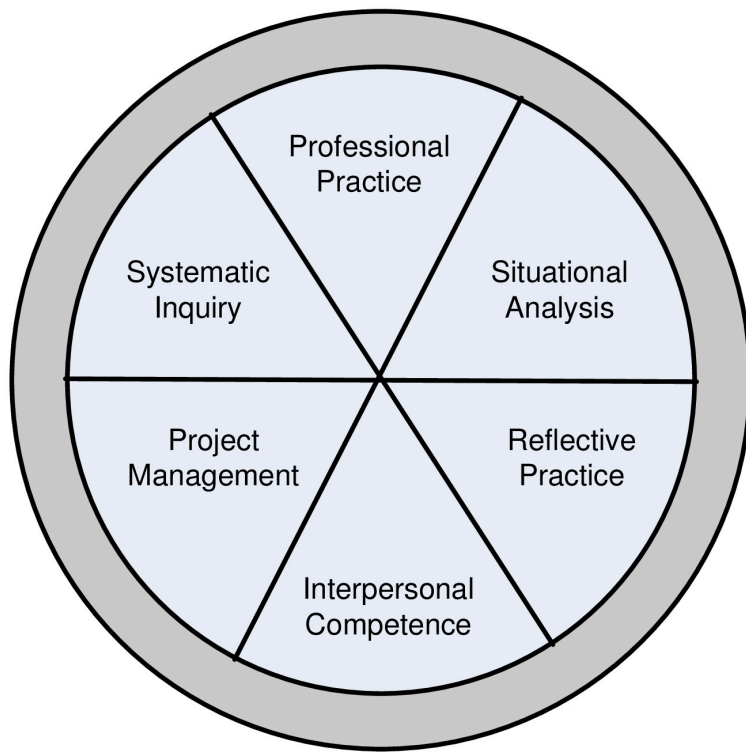
challenges



- project management
- notion of the evaluator as “in-charge” or “in-control”

lessons learned

Essential Competencies for Program Evaluators



- Play to students' strengths
- Provide opportunities to develop competencies
- Set high standards... and realistic expectations

COORDINATOR

components of a successful partnership

1. Listening to
the client

2. Scoping a
reasonable
project



BrandLab

components of a successful partnership



Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center



University of Minnesota School of Public Health • University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
National Farm Medicine Center • Minnesota Department of Health

3. Facilitating the right match

4. Offering support without getting enmeshed

5. Utilization-focused evaluation framework

why MESI is important

Observe
Communicate
Make wise choices....



MY BIG AH-HA'S

relationships



systems thinking



Thank you Jean King and MESI.
Because of you I am a better evaluator and person.

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